

Standards/Cut scores for the Idaho English Language Assessment (IELA)

On July 18-20, 2006, two panels, consisting of 25 Idaho educators, were convened for the purpose of setting standards on the Idaho English Language Assessment (IELA). One panel focused on the lower grades, K, 1-2, 3-5, and the second panel focused on middle and high school grades, 6-8, 9-12.

Panel members received books containing test items for a particular grade span, with each page corresponding to a test item and pages ordered in terms of increasing item difficulty. Using the Bookmark or item mapping procedure, panelists made “cuts” by placing markers in the books to indicate the item on which 50% of the students at a particular proficiency level and in a particular grade would answer correctly. Three rounds of cuts were planned for each grade span. Following each of the first two rounds, panelists were shown frequency distributions and medians of recommended cuts and were given the opportunity to discuss the process. The second round was followed by impact data, i.e., the percent of students in each grade who would be placed in each proficiency level based on the median cuts assigned by the group.

Recommended Raw Score Cuts by Grade and Test Form

Grade	Form	Max Points	Adv Beg	Inter	Early Fluency	Fluent
K	A	102	33	45	58	74
1	B1	74	30	41	51	60
1	B2	84	30	42	53	63
2	B1	74	34	46	60	68
2	B2	84	34	47	63	73
3	C1	74	28	42	54	65
3	C2	83	27	42	56	69
4	C1	74	30	44	61	68
4	C2	83	29	43	64	73
5	C1	74	35	49	62	68
5	C2	83	34	49	66	74
6-8	D1	74	27	42	60	70
6-8	D2	88	24	39	63	77
9-12	E1	74	28	40	60	70
9-12	E2	89	27	40	65	80

- There are 2 test forms for grade spans 1-12. One for beginning level students and one for intermediate/advanced level students. The two forms are equated so that scoring across the forms is consistent.